

Smarter Balanced Assessment

Smarter Balanced is coming! Almost 30,000 students in SFUSD will be taking the new assessments, which replace the STAR program in California. Based on the Common Core State Standards, the new assessments are administered on computers and use computer-adaptive technology that adjusts to each individual student's level.

In addition to computer-adaptive technology, Smarter Balanced tests take advantage of the digital platform to provide many computer-based supports and resources that were not possible with the paper-pencil STAR tests. Students in Special Education and English Language Learners will benefit from a number of new kinds of designated supports, ranging from digital notepads and magnification to text-to-speech and glossaries in nearly a dozen languages. This new technology will provide much more precise data for teachers to use in improving teaching and learning for all students, with better learning outcomes.

Smarter Balanced is part of a national consortium, and represents a huge advance in accurate assessments for all students. In SFUSD, students in grades 3-8 will be testing February 26 through May 29. Eleventh graders will be testing April 9 through May 29. The Achievement Assessments office has provided all Special Education teachers with training and tools to use in IEP meetings when discussing the new "*Universal Tools, Supports, and Accommodations*."

Want to try the Smarter Balanced practice test yourself? <http://sbac.portal.airast.org/practice-test/>.

For more information on Smarter Balanced, visit sfusd.edu or speak with your child's Case Manager.